

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STRASB 00144 031841Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 SY-10 SCA-01 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEAE-00

DRC-01 /166 W

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P 031710Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0648

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0025

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 144

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, COE

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON TERRORISM AND VIENNA EVENTS

REF: 1. STATE 194847

2. STRASBOURG 142

3. STRASBOURG A-57

1. SUMMARY. AS SUGGESTED DEPTTEL, SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AT JUST CONCLUDED SESSION OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE UNIVERSALLY CRITICAL OF AUSTRIAN CONCESSIONS TO ARAB TERRORISTS. URGENT DEBATE HELD ON GENERAL SUBJECT TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, RESULTING IN RESOLUTION POSITING "JOINT RESPONSIBILITY" OF SEVENTEEN MEMBER STATES "TO FIRMLY RESIST ANY CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION PURPORTING TO EXTORT POLITICAL DECISIONS," AND DECLARING INVALID "A PLEDGE EXTORTED BY VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION OR BLACKMAIL". END SUMMARY.

2. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VEDOVATO OPENED SUBJECT IN INTRODUCING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR TO THE ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 1.

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PAGE 02 STRASB 00144 031841Z

IN STATEMENT CITED REFTTEL 1, HE REFERRED TO ASSEMBLY'S LONG

STANDING EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS STAMP OUT
TERRORISM AND LAUNCHED AN APPEAL "THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS,
IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL COLORING JOIN TO ADOPT FIRM AND
MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES". THIS APPEAL, HOWEVER, WAS
FOLLOWED BY NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON HOW MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
SHOULD UNITE TO THIS END.

3. FOLLOWING SPEECH BY MRS. MEIR IN WHICH SHE STRONGLY
SCORED AUSTRIAN AGREEMENT WITH TERRORISTS (REF 2),
PARLIAMENTARIANS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL COLORATION AND
NATIONALITY, INCLUDING AUSTRIAN, EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR
ISRAELI POSITION AND HOPE THAT AUSTRIA DECISION WOULD BE
RESCINDED. CONSENSUS UNIVERSAL THAT THIS FIRST AGREEMENT
UNDER PRESSURE BETWEEN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ARAB
TERRORISTS WAS A MOST DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD HAVE
UNHAPPY FUTURE RAMIFICATIONS.

4. ASSEMBLY TURNED AGAIN TO TERRORISM AND THE FREE
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 2. FOLLOWING A
SOMEWHAT LESS CHARGED DEBATE ALONG SAME GENERAL LINES AS
PREVIOUS DAY, ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTION:

A) OF DISMAY AT "TERRORIST BLACKMAIL BY WHICH PLEDGE
WAS EXTORTED FROM AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT"

B) REAFFIRMING IMPORTANCE OF PRINCIPLE FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

C) CALLING UPON MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO UNITE IN EFFORTS
TO COMBAT TERRORISM , AND

D) DECLARING PLEDGES EXTORTED BY VIOLENCE INVALID.

5. THIS MOST RECENT IN A LONG LINE OF ASSEMBLY INITIATIVES
ON TERRORISM (TEXT POUCHED) WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS, BUT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, REQUIRE A RESPONSE.
THE ASSEMBLY'S RECOMMENDATION 703 PASSED LAST MAY IS MORE
SPECIFIC AND WILL REQUIRE A RESPONSE (REF 3). THIS,
INTERALIA, INVITES GOVERNMENTS:

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PAGE 03 STRASB 00144 031841Z

A) TO "RATIFY MOST URGENTLY THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND
MONTREAL CONVENTIONS",

B) ESTABLISH A COMMON DEFINITION OF THE TERM "POLITICAL
OFFENSE" TO REMOVE POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR TERRORISM,

C) DEVELOP OF JOINT EUROPEAN FRONT TO COMBAT TERRORISM
AND JOINT EUROPEAN PROPOSALS FOR ACTION AT THE UN, AND,

D) URGENTLY CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF
INTERIOR TO DEVELOP REGIONAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT. RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS SORT
FORCE EUROPEAN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO FOCUS ON TERRORISM
AS A REGIONAL PROBLEM. IT IS ALSO TRUE HOWEVER THAT THESE
GOVERNMENTS HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN FAR LESS WILLING THAN
THEIR PARLIAMENTARIANS TO CONSIDER STRONG REGIONAL ACTION,
AT LEAST IN A STRASBOURG CONTEXT.
WOODS

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